Mr. Chairman,

The Spanish delegation fully supports the statement made by the European Union yesterday. Nonetheless, we would also like to make a brief statement to congratulate you and congratulate ourselves for counting on you to lead this Preparatory Conference. At the same time, it’s difficult to imagine anyone better than you to lead the last phase of negotiations of the Diplomatic Conference that will take place next July.

The Spanish Government has maintained, for a long time, in its foreign policy both in the United Nations and in the European Union, an active role in favour of an effective and legally binding International Treaty on Arms Trade; a Treaty that establishes common international rules for import, export and transfer of conventional weapons in the United Nations framework.

Spain is leading by example for a long time, since its mechanism of exports control were established by Law 53/2007, incorporating the Common European Position 2008/944/PESC on control of military technology and equipment, which establishes eight criteria to control and limit the transfer of weapons through the Inter-ministerial Joint Board. My country is willing to maintain this strict policy in spite of the present economic crisis we are going through.

Furthermore, Spain is in favour of including all types of weapons and ammunitions in this Treaty. Ammunition is an essential element for the activation of weapons, and at the very end the one that kills.

Mr. Chairman,

Spain is convinced that Non-governmental Organisations and civil society have much to say and contribute in this kind of meetings. In this sense, and taking into account the relevance and public diplomacy efforts, I believe that the UN and its Member States are obliged to show signs of modernisation and adaptation to the present times. To this end, we must consider civil society as an important part of the network that can help solve the lack of regulatory decisions on arms trade, which is detrimental to people suffering from the consequences of arms diversion and also to human rights.

On the issue of consensus, the Spanish Delegation has noticed that it has become an important issue for debate on the Rules of Procedure because of its significance in different aspects of the negotiation process, as well as for its final result. Spain wishes to contribute positively toward these negotiations and is ready to show the utmost flexibility towards this objective. It is also necessary to count on the flexibility of all Member States and understand that consensus is no more than the means to achieve the objective of a strong and robust Treaty as established in the mandate of the General Assembly. The practice of the United Nations offers us a valuable experience, which we can and must use in the negotiations of this Diplomatic Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Your experience and your proven ability to lead this negotiation can help us achieve the necessary consensus to conclude the ratification of this Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I hope to see you next July leading the work of the Diplomatic Conference.

Thank you very much.